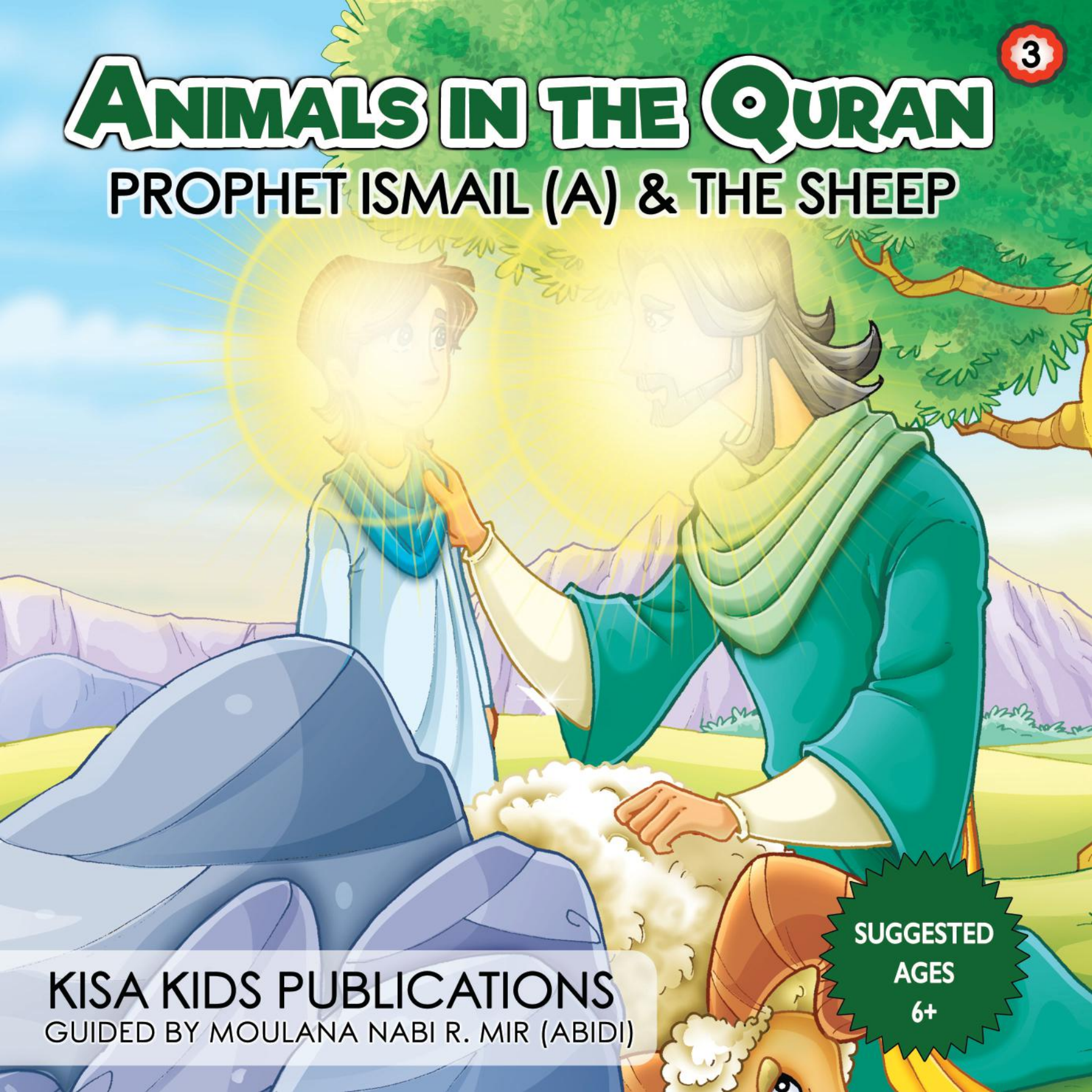
3

ANIMALS IN THE QURAN

PROPHET ISMAIL (A) & THE SHEEP



SUGGESTED AGES 6+

KISA KIDS PUBLICATIONS
GUIDED BY MOULANA NABI R. MIR (ABIDI)

Disclaimer: Religious texts have ***not*** been translated verbatim so as to meet the developmental and comprehension needs of children.

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2022920347

Kisa Kids Publications
4415 Fortran Court
San Jose, CA 95134
info@kisakids.org
kisakids.org
alkisafoundation.org

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the beloved Imām of our time (ʿaj). May Allah (swt) hasten his reappearance and help us to become his true companions.

Original Author

Brother Alāʾ Jaʿfarī

Acknowledgements

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): On the Day of Resurrection, the ink of the scholars will be weighed up against the blood of the martyrs, and the ink of the scholars will be heavier than the blood of the martyrs.
Nahj al-Faṣāḥah, Saying #3222.

True reward lies with Allah, but we would like to sincerely thank the efforts of Shaykh Salim Yusufali, Sisters Sabika Mithani, Liliana Villalvazo, Sarah Ali, Amna Hussain, Zainab Mithani, Zahra Sabur, Sajeda Merchant, Fathema Abidi, Fatemeh Eslami, Kisae Nazar, Abeda Khimji, Zehra Abbas, Zainab Hussain, and Fatima Hussain. We would especially like to thank Nainawa Publications for their artwork and contributions
May Allah bless them in this world and the next.

Marḥūmīn Dedication

Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marḥūmīn of the Talebi family

Preface

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): Nurture and raise your children in the best way. Raise them with the love of the Prophets and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

Literature is an influential form of media that often shapes the thoughts and views of an entire generation. Therefore, in order to establish an Islamic foundation for the future generations, there is a dire need for compelling Islamic literature. Over the past several years, this need has become increasingly prevalent throughout Islamic centers and schools everywhere. Due to the growing dissonance between parents, children, society, and the teachings of Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), this need has become even more pressing. Al-Kisa Foundation, along with its subsidiary, Kisa Kids Publications, was conceived in an effort to help bridge this gap with the guidance of ʿulamāʾ and the help of educators. We would like to make this a communal effort and platform. Therefore, we sincerely welcome constructive feedback and help in any capacity.

The goal of *Animals in the Quran* is to strengthen children's understanding of how Allah is All-Powerful and All-Wise, thus strengthening their tawakkul and reliance. We hope that you and your children enjoy these books and use them as a means to achieve this goal, inshāʾAllāh.

We pray to Allah to give us the strength and tawfīq to perform our duties and responsibilities.

With Duʾās,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

About the Board ʿĀlim

Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi) is a scholar, an educator, a father, and an enthusiast for creating educational infrastructure and Islamic resources for the benefit of the global community. Always wanting to think outside the box by supporting the creation of innovative materials to engage young readers to pick up Islamic books, interact with Qurʾānic games, learn from the Steps to Perfection Curriculum and begin their life long journey of holistic education.

Being a dedicated student and graduate of Darse Khārij from Ḥawzah, Moulana Abidi knows the value of Islamic education. Also, growing up in India while now residing in the United States, he has had the honor to meet with various communities and community leaders, and values the importance of collaboration and working together to optimize potentials and to create open source platforms so information and resources are available and accessible to all.

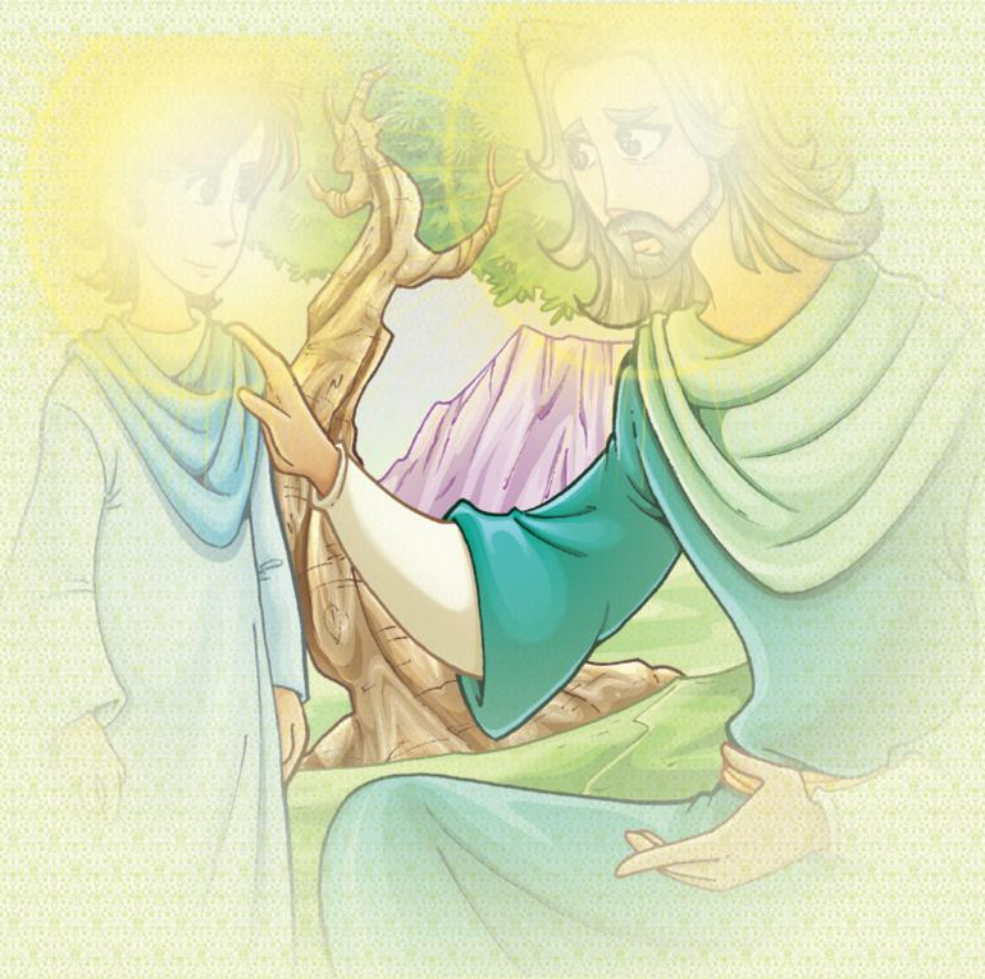
* * *

You, dear reader, are now part of the Al-Kisa family. Share the word, and join the mission.

ANIMALS IN THE QURAN

3

PROPHET ISMAIL (A) & THE SHEEP



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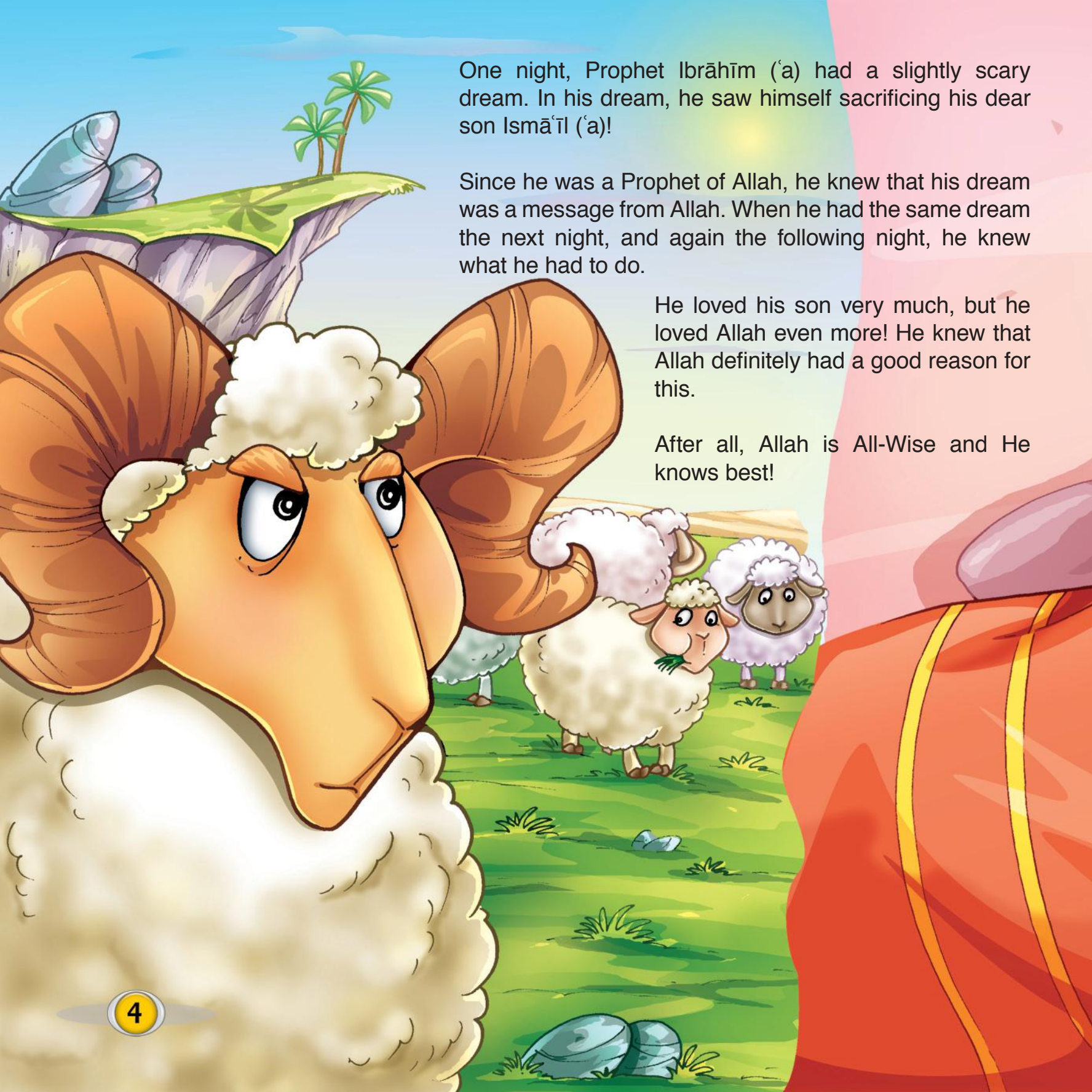
***Pronunciation Guide:**
ā is an elongated “a” sound, like “aa”
ī is an elongated “e” sound, like “ee”
ʿa comes from the middle of the throat
ḥ is a heavy “ha” sound that comes from the middle of the throat
ḍ is a pronounced “dh”

There once was a great Prophet of Allah, named Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿa).* Prophet Ibrāhīm and his wife Ḥaḍrat Hājar* had a beautiful son named Ismāʿīl (ʿa). He was also a prophet! Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿa) loved his son very much! He taught him all about Allah, and how Allah was All-Wise and All- Powerful! He told his son that we should always trust Allah because He knows best. In turn, Ismāʿīl (ʿa) began teaching others in Mecca about Allah, too!

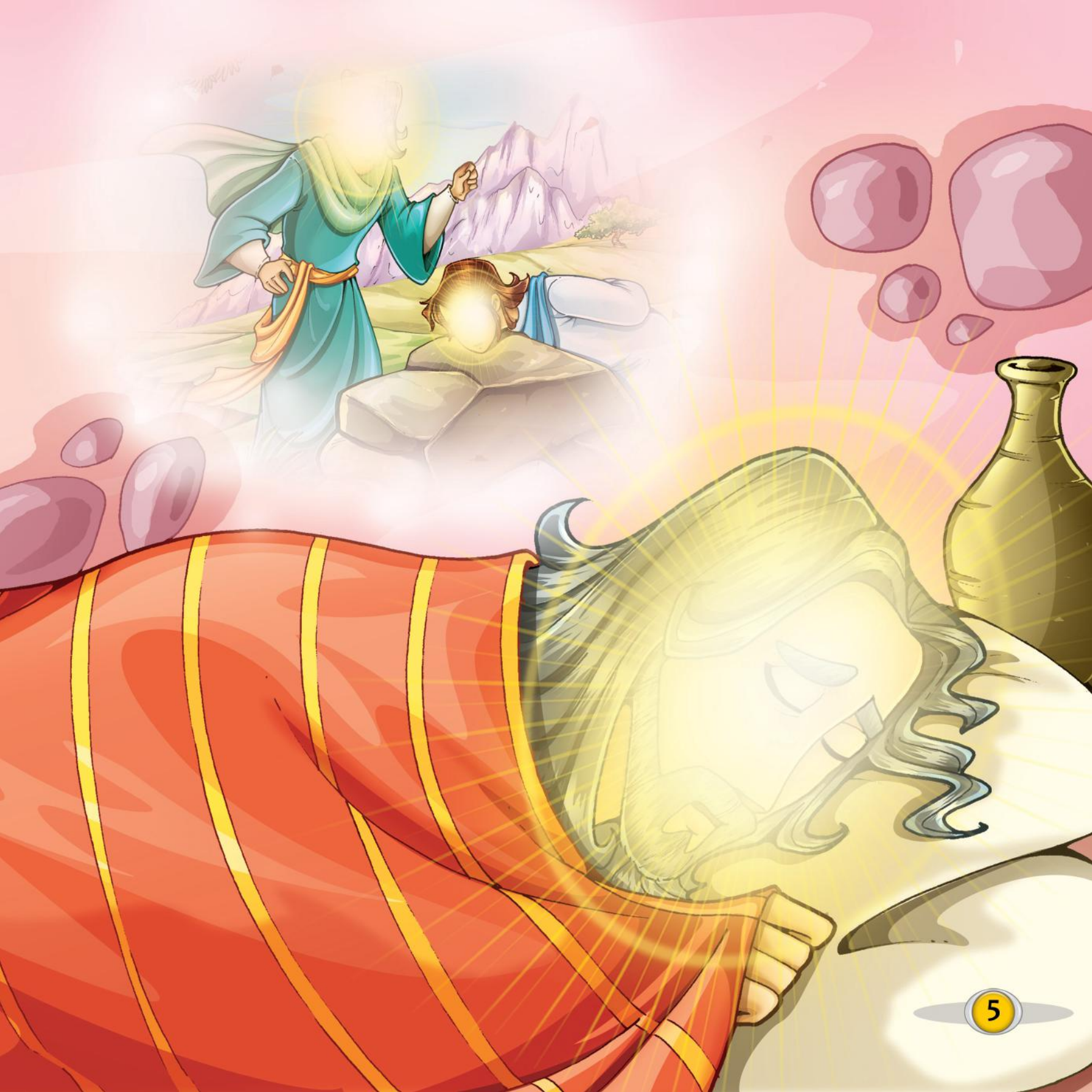


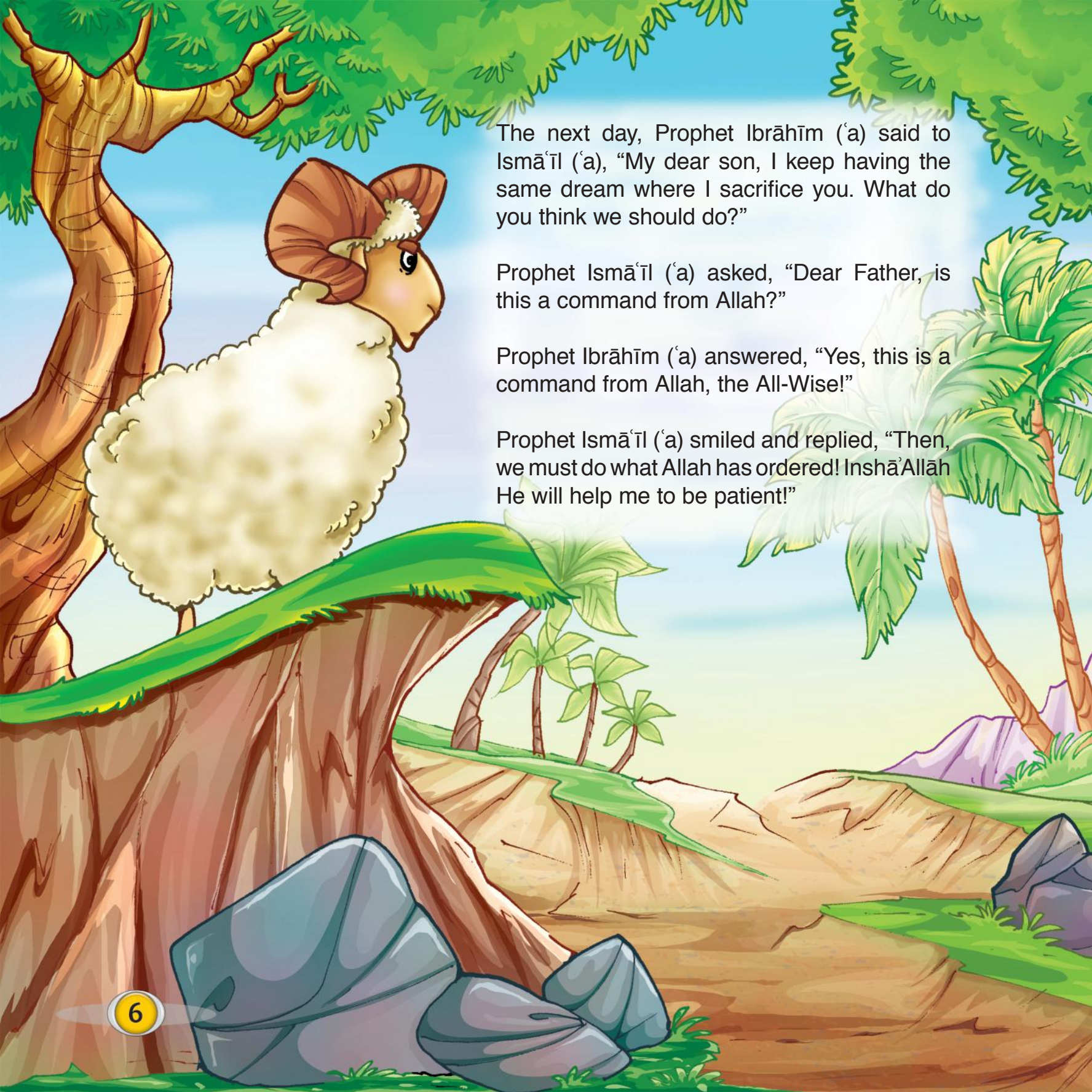
One night, Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿa) had a slightly scary dream. In his dream, he saw himself sacrificing his dear son Ismāʿīl (ʿa)!

Since he was a Prophet of Allah, he knew that his dream was a message from Allah. When he had the same dream the next night, and again the following night, he knew what he had to do.

He loved his son very much, but he loved Allah even more! He knew that Allah definitely had a good reason for this.

After all, Allah is All-Wise and He knows best!





The next day, Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿa) said to Ismāʿīl (ʿa), “My dear son, I keep having the same dream where I sacrifice you. What do you think we should do?”

Prophet Ismāʿīl (ʿa) asked, “Dear Father, is this a command from Allah?”

Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿa) answered, “Yes, this is a command from Allah, the All-Wise!”

Prophet Ismāʿīl (ʿa) smiled and replied, “Then, we must do what Allah has ordered! InshāʾAllāh He will help me to be patient!”

The next day, both father and son began their journey to a far away land. On the way, *Shayṭān** came up to them, pretending to be a man.

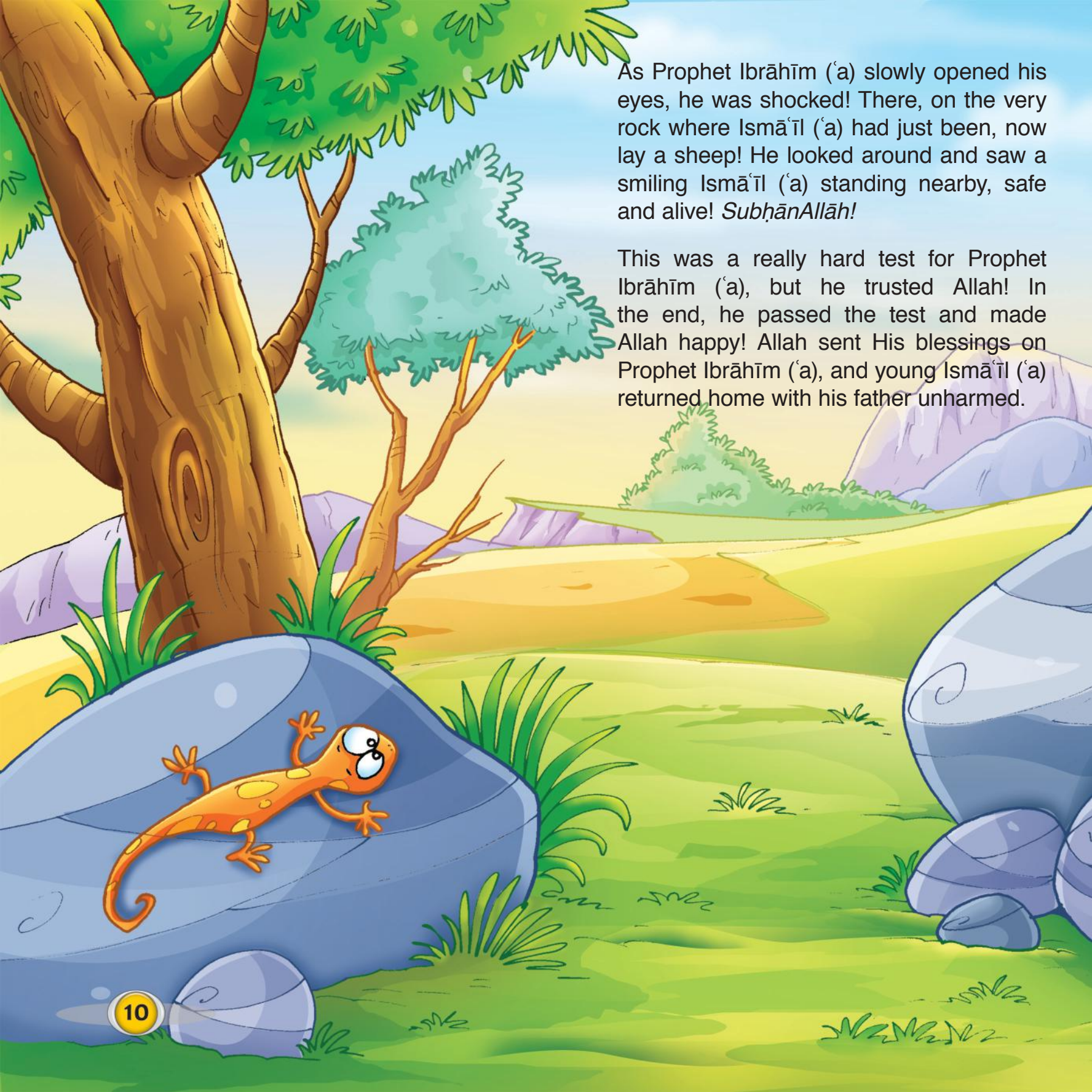
He asked, “Where are you taking your son, Ibrāhīm? Are you going to sacrifice him?! Are you sure you *want to?* How could you do this to your own son?!”

Both Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿa) and Ismāʿīl (ʿa) trusted Allah and knew *Shayṭān* was just trying to trick them. So, they decided to shoo him away! Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿa) began throwing seven pebbles in his direction until he finally left them alone.

***Pronunciation Guide:**
ṭ is an emphasised “t” sound like the arabic letter ط

Then, they continued their journey with hearts full of faith! After a while, they finally reached their destination. Ismāʿīl (ʿa) laid himself on a rock. Wow! He trusted Allah so much! Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿa) closed his eyes, said *Bismillāh*, and began to perform the sacrifice.

All of a sudden, he heard a voice call out, “O Ibrāhīm! You have listened to and followed Allah’s command! Now, sacrifice the sheep Allah has placed for you instead of Ismāʿīl (ʿa).”



As Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿa) slowly opened his eyes, he was shocked! There, on the very rock where Ismāʿīl (ʿa) had just been, now lay a sheep! He looked around and saw a smiling Ismāʿīl (ʿa) standing nearby, safe and alive! *SubḥānAllāh!*

This was a really hard test for Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿa), but he trusted Allah! In the end, he passed the test and made Allah happy! Allah sent His blessings on Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿa), and young Ismāʿīl (ʿa) returned home with his father unharmed.

Every year on Eid al-Aḍḥā, Muslims all over the world sacrifice a sheep and give its meat to the poor and needy. By doing this, we remember the beautiful story of Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿa) and how he always listened to Allah!

The story of Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿa) and Prophet Ismāʿīl (ʿa) teaches us to trust Allah. Allah is All-Wise, and He knows what is best for us, even when we don't!

Family Time

وَفَدَيْنَاهُ بِذِبْحٍ عَظِيمٍ

And we ransomed him with a supreme sacrifice. (37:107)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

When reading and learning about stories from the Qurʾān, it is important for us to reflect upon the lessons they teach us. In order to help your children internalize the lessons from this story, discuss the following questions:

1. What was the recurring dream that Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿa) had?

2. How did Prophet Ismāʿīl (ʿa) react when he heard about his father's dream?

3. Who tried to trick Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿa) and Ismāʿīl (ʿa) on their journey?

4. What miracle did Prophet Ibrāhīm (ʿa) see when he opened his eyes? Why do you think Allah (swt) did this?

5. What lesson can we learn from this story?

Glossary

(ṣ): Peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muḥammad and his family

(swt): All glory belongs to God, the Glorified and Exalted

(ʿa): Peace and blessings be upon him/her

(ʿaj): May God hasten his reappearance

Ahl al-Bayt: Divinely appointed family members of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)

al-Fātiḥah: The first *sūrah* that is commonly recited and sent as a gift of prayer for the deceased

Alḥamdulillāh: All praise is for God

Allah: The Arabic term for God, a culmination of all His holy names and titles

Bismillāh: (I begin) in the name of God

Duʿā: Supplication; a deep connection and communication between an individual and God

Eid al-Aḍḥā: The 10th day of the month of Dhū al-Ḥijjah, which is a day of celebration for Muslims around the world

Imām: A divinely appointed leader, sometimes refers to a spiritual leader

Inshāʾallāh: God-willing

Marḥūmīn: Someone who has passed away

Qurʾān: The holy book of Muslims

Shayṭān: The devil

Sūrah: A chapter of the Qurʾān

Tawakkul: Reliance and trust in God

Tawfīq: Divine blessings from God that give one the opportunity and ability to thrive towards success

ʿUlamāʾ: Scholars

Transliteration Chart

Arabic terms in this book have been transliterated according to the following guidelines*:

ء	a, i, or u (initial form)
ء	ʾ (medial or final form)
ا	a
ب	b
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	ḥ
خ	kh
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	ṣ
ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ
ظ	ẓ
ع	ʿ
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
ه	h
و	w
ي	y

ـَ	a
ـِ	i
ـُ	u
ـّ	double letter
آ / ـَا / ىٰ	ā
ـِي	ī
ـُو	ū

*Please note that due to limitations, the transliteration is not 100% accurate in capturing tajwīd rules.

What if Allah asked you to give up your favorite toy or video game? Would you be willing to sacrifice something so dear to you? Well, Prophet Ibrahim (a) was asked to sacrifice something much more dear to him than a video game — his son. *Prophet Ismail (a) and the Sheep* teaches us that when we put our trust in Allah, He takes care of us better than we could even imagine!

ISBN 9781683121787